

## Horseheath Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by

Mike Petty



Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection).

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1898 04 22

Horseheath ditch, p3

1899 11 18

Walter Pluck of Balsham said he had an agreement with Alfred Kent of Horseheath to take away the carcasses of any horses which might die. The value of the carcasses differed, the average being 15s. The horses were taken away about two or three hours after death. Some were in a very bad state, and were rotten so he was obliged to put them on the manure heap. He never sent any grease in part payment.

1904 02 11

Police told Linton magistrates that most public houses were satisfactorily conducted. But the landlord of the Swan, Linton had not exercised control over his guests, the publican of the Three Hills at Bartlow had been convicted of fighting with another publican from Brinkley outside the Montford Arms, Horseheath and the landlord of the Wheatsheaf beerhouse, Duxford had permitted people to remain in his house when drunk. The licence of the Pear Tree, Hildersham was transferred from Frederick Peters to George Gibson.

1904 07 26

Horseheath accident, p3 \*

1906 04 20

The gipsy fraternity visited Linton police court to hear some of their brethren answer charges of having inflicted malicious damage. One night 161 palings were broken from a fence at Horseheath shortly after their vans had passed. Policemen visited the camp and saw a large quantity of the wood beside a large common fire. The gypsies said it belonged to a man who had moved on; they were fined 5s. 06 04 20abc

1912 09 20

His Majesty the King visited the Hardwick aero camp where he spoke to Colonel S.F. Cody, and inspected his famous biplane. He showed much interest in the position of the propeller, which is behind the pilot and not in front, as in the other biplanes at the camp. The King then commanded Col Cody to make a short exhibition flight. In a few seconds the plane was in the air, making several circuits, flying both high and low before pulling up gracefully within a few yards of the Royal party. The King then inspected the naval biplanes before leaving. Shortly afterwards Mr de Havilland arrived in a biplane from the 'seat of war' – the manoeuvres around Linton 12 09 20e also 20d, photos 20f, g. Airmen's triumph, Mutlow Hill taken etc – 20h; fighting Horseheath – 20i, Castle Camps – 20j, airship 20k 20l 20n

1914 09 25

Recruitment – Castle Camps, Soham, Fulbourn, Horseheath

1919 06 18

Big gathering of mothers – About 400 members of the Mothers Union in the Camps Rural Deanery assembled at Balsham Rectory. They hailed from Whittlesford, Sawston, Pampisford, Ickleton, Duxford, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Bartlow and Balsham. They partook of tea, and were addressed by the Bishop of Ely and Mrs. Eager, from the Central Mothers' Union, London.

1920 03 10

County licenses: Linton: Axe & Saw; Horseheath: Montford Arms, Castle Camps: George & Dragon referred – 20 03 10b

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631), Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186), Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236), Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422), Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313), Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105), Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1925 07 09 c

A large portion of the Horseheath Estate, extending over 1,000 acres will be offered for sale by auction. It includes four farms and numerous cottages and small holdings. The most important is Horseheath Park Farm which has been in the occupation of the owner of the estate, Mr T. Wayman Parsons for a number of years. The farm could be readily converted into a capital stud farm, and it is interesting to note that a Derby winner, Plenipotentiary, was trained on the Horseheath Estate.

1927 09 15

The question of water supply was becoming more and more serious, Linton RDC was told. In one side of the district there was no water. The ponds were all very low, and the people were drinking out of roadside drains water which was impregnated with decayed vegetable matter. There was no even water enough for cleanliness, and something must be done. But the other side was plentifully supplied. Sawston people would object to paying for Horseheath or Castle Camps. The question was whether they should go on digging wells or whether it was possible to take any other measure which would be more perfect or less expensive

1928 04 28 c

There were three genuine cases of overcrowding at Horseheath. In one house with two bedrooms there were six children and three adults; in another with three bedrooms there were eight adults and three children, while in a third there were four adults and five children. Other houses were in a dilapidated condition.

1934 01 04

Drought – water carted to Horseheath – 34 01 04

1934 03 14

The recent rains have had no effect on the serious shortage of water in certain villages in the Horseheath district. A ton and a half of water is carted daily from Haverhill and is rationed to the villagers at two bucketful per household. This has been going on, with the exception of a short break, since last September and is expected to continue till “the company’s water” is laid to the houses concerned. The expense of a pound a day will fall on County ratepayers. 34 03 14

1935 06 11

Catherine Parsons said people believed that midnight was the hour when ghosts would be seen. No one would pass the Roman road crossing to Streetley End for fear of being pelted with large things like apple dumplings. But Horseheath ghosts were quite harmless and included a poor girl whose coming was heralded by a sound like buzzing bees, three headless women dressed in black who wandered in from Camps and a headless man with a red handkerchief around his neck. The finest spectacle was a coffin borne up Limbery’s Hill followed by a long procession of mourners. 35 06 11 & a

1936 09 25

A Horseheath man employed as an ice cream salesman told the court he was in charge of a motor cycle box combination which was stationary in Bardfield End Green. He was serving a girl when a motor cycle combination travelling at 30mph ran into him. The sidecar tilted into the air and the machine travelled some time before stopping. The other rider said there had not been room for him to pass unless he went on to the grass. He was fined but his licence was not endorsed. 36 09 25

1937 08 25

An attempt by an insurgent force to cut the railway at Bartlow Station saw rifle battalions attack on a wide front. A small British machine gun battalion took up a position on the west bank of the River Stour while soldiers demolished bridges to prevent the attackers occupying the high ground at Shudy Camps and Horseheath. Villagers had a fine time watching the ponderous tanks pass by and comparing them with the guns and beautiful horses of the 1912 manoeuvres. It was part of the military exercise simulating that in Egypt before the latest Anglo-Egyptian treaty. 37 08 25

1935 12 03

Demolition of houses at Horseheath and Duxford – 37 12 03a

1950 02 27

Four firemen suffered superficial injuries when the Linton fire tender in which they were riding overturned into a ditch when on the way to deal with a chimney fire at College Farm, Horseheath. The accident followed a violent skid on the icy roads. The injured were Firemen Leonard Morley, J. Morley, Noakes and Gurr. The officer in charge went on to the fire by motorcycle. The fire engine was not badly damaged, but a pump trailer which had been pulled at the rear will require extensive repairs

1950 03 10

The Montford Café and Transport House, Horseheath, which served 87,562 meals last year, was granted a licence to sell beer. The applicant said he purchased the premises in May 1947 and had developed the business considerably. At weekends an average of 45-50 motor coaches stopped each day. He did not think the public houses in Horseheath were capable of supplying enough beer for the coach-loads of people. They had not the room or facilities for serving meals.

1954 03 05

An application by the owner of the Mountford Café, Horseheath for a licence to serve beer with meals was refused. He had to deal with about 50 meals even in a slack period, and there was a big demand for alcoholic refreshment. The other public houses could not accommodate the number of coaches he did. But the manager of Benskin's Brewery said they proposed to make extensive alterations to the Red Lion public house and they served snacks; children could either stay in the coaches or play on the lawn. The landlord of the Green Hill Inn, Linton said he could accommodate six coaches and there was a restaurant opposite which could take four.

1957 12 19

Horseheath blacksmith, Ernest Ruffle, has retired after nearly 60 years. The last of the thousands of horses he has shod was that of Miss Dulcie Taylor of West Wickham. Agricultural mechanisation has caused a decline but although horses for land work will disappear, but there will still be horses to be shod for hunting, he says. Blacksmiths have to be strong: "I have been kicked, pushed and trodden on dozens of times by wayward horses", he declares. 57 12 19h

**1960**

***The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date***

1961 03 03

The Cambridge Independent Press produced an interesting illustrated feature on Horseheath – 61 03 03 CIP

1964 04 01

Fire swept a Horseheath farm causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. The 16th century Tudor style College farmhouse on the West Wickham Road was gutted and flames roared into the thatch of nearby farm buildings. About £1,000 worth of stock was scattered into the mud of the stockyard with seconds to spare as burning thatch began to collapse. The fire was spotted by Arthur Tinney of Manor Farm who raced into the barns and let out bullocks, pigs and chickens worth altogether about £1,000.

62 04 01

1974 12 11

There are 24 council house tenants at Horseheath still using tin bucket lavatories at the end of their gardens 18 months after a new £170,000 sewer connection was laid across their back gardens. The parish council chairman said it was "unbelievable that people can still live in these primitive conditions". The new sewer was completed in April 1973 and the former South Cambs council announced an £80,000 programme for providing the houses at Allington Terrace, Bakersfield cottages and Meadow cottages with modern toilets and bathrooms. These houses contain young couples with children and pensioners. But still nothing happens

1976 03 19

Six primary schools in Cambridgeshire villages may have to close next year. Schools at Wood Ditton, Kirtling, Chippenham, Horseheath, Quy and Madingley have been shortlisted from a number of schools with less than 75 pupils which the county council feels may no longer be viable for educational or economic reasons. Other schools with few pupils include Ashley (30 pupils), Black Horse Drove (40), Castle Camps (55), Dullingham (30) and Stuntney (40)

1977 05 31

Flag-draped homes, street parties and organised sports and entertainments will herald the Queen's Silver Jubilee at Haverhill. All day Monday will be devoted to parties organised by streets and courts on the town's estates & Jubilee Day will be celebrated on the recreation ground with a Haverhill Girls v USAF basketball match and culminate with a torchlight procession and bonfire. At Linton there will be a wheelbarrow race, all old age pensioners will receive free food tokens and jubilee crowns will be distributed to schoolchildren. Horseheath will stage a village fair and a town crier in full period dress will herald the jubilee message around Wickambrook, visiting each of the eleven 'greens' which make up the parish.

1980 12 06

Cambridge railway commuters said goodbye to their two most popular stewards with presents and champagne. British Rail is replacing the three buffet cars and replacing them with micro-buffets and stewards Colin Taylor and Robbie Davidson are resigning. Simon Spanswick of Newport, who fought to save the service, decorated the 20-year-old buffet car with black crepe and Ron Knowles of Horseheath produced a wreath in loving memory. The regulars gathered round the counter and got through quite a lot of drink. 80 12 06

1982 12 21

Horseheath villagers will have their quietest Christmas for many years, thanks to the new by-pass. It will divert thousands of cars and heavy lorries which previously thundered along the narrow, winding main street. "It's so quiet now especially at night that it's almost as though it's snowing. It's also nice to walk through the village without getting splattered with mud", said Mrs Nell Clarke, who has been campaigning for the road for years. 82 12 21

1985 04 24

Horseheath appears to be a village in decline. In the past year the tiny primary school closed despite a long campaign to save it by the parish council. The 25 children were transferred to Castle Camps. Now the Red Lion pub and the Chequers at nearby Streetly End have shut up because people could not afford to stay out drinking all evening. But Horseheath is hitting back. Last month residents

completed the purchase of the school building for use as a village hall, showing their strength of commitment to the community 85 04 24

1985 05 17

Firemen fighting a blaze at the centuries-old Chequers pub in Streetly End near Horseheath had a narrow escape when burning timbers and thatch crashed through a ceiling. The fire raged through the night and left the building a smouldering shell. The pub, which had been a favourite drinking place for motor cyclists, closed about 18 months ago and was being renovated 85 05 17

1985 07 04

Villagers in West Wrating have been warned to use their local pub – or lose it. The landlord of the Chestnut Tree says the bowling club always visit the pub when it has a home match but when the Women's Institute go out, they go elsewhere. "They say it is because we don't have food, but we will do food for anyone who arranges it", he complains. In recent years the Chequers at Streetly End, the Horseheath Red Lion, the Princess of Wales in Linton and the Lamb and Crown in West Wrating have all shut. 85 07 04a

1989 09 10

Horseheath residents have buried a time capsule at the site of their new village sign. Rebecca Harrison, 13, lowered the stainless steel box into the village green before it vanished from sight for the next hundred years. It contains a set of modern coins, a copy of the 'News', a list of children and accounts by the youngsters of a typical day in their lives. Villagers have left written instructions for it to be unearthed in 2089 89 06 10

1989 07 07

A beerhouse in Horseheath, the only one of its kind in the area, is to be demolished. The red brick bungalow on Horseheath Green was built in the 1860s for navvies working on the Haverhill to London railway line. Known as 'The Shant', it is now dilapidated and subsiding. The Parish Council say it is a charming small-scale Victorian building worth preserving. However a conservation officer describes it as pleasant and unobtrusive but of only limited interest. 89 07 07a

1989 08 02

Horseheath's new village sign was presented by Sir Arthur Marshall and dedicated by the Bishop of Ely in memory of his wife, Lady Rosemary Marshall. Children from Castle Camps school have written stories about 20th century life which have been buried in a time capsule underneath the sign which depicts the 1834 Derby winner, bred and trained at Horseheath Lodge.. Four windows in the 14th century church have also been rebuilt in memory of Lady Marshall, farmer Jack Webb and Thomas Sutton. 89 08 02